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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Federated States of Micronesia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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1. The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia has reviewed the conclusions and/or recommendations of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, and hereby submits the following replies.

Thematic area: International human rights treaties

62.1; 62.2; 62.3; 62.4; 62.5; 62.6; 62.7; 62.8; 62.9; 62.10; 62.11; 62.12; 62.13; 62.14; 62.15; 62.20; 62.21; 62.22; 62.23; 62.24; 62.25; 62.26; 62.27; 62.28; 62.29; 62.30; 62.31; 62.32; 62.33; 62.34; 62.35; 62.42

2. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) supports these recommendations and will continue to review and consider ratification of human rights treaties within the context of its resources and priorities. It should be noted that the FSM ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 26 October 2015.

3. The FSM continues to make every effort to review the remaining core human rights treaties for ratification. However, the treaty ratification and implementation process remains challenging for the FSM, not only with human right treaties but any other treaties. With the establishment of the Human Rights/UPR Task Force, the FSM is committed in ensuring that its reporting and financial obligations are met.

Thematic area: Legislative and other reform on thematic human rights issues

62.36; 62.37; 62.77

4. The FSM supports these recommendations. The FSM national government will continue to work with the four state governments in the federation to enact laws that implement the FSM's human rights obligations, as they are primarily state matters. The FSM is also mindful of its limited capacity and other constraints to enact implementing legislation but will continue to seek technical and financial assistance from its development partners in its efforts to collect and analyze data on human rights issues, carry out advocacy work on human rights, and implement appropriate policy and legislative reforms.

Thematic area: Human rights institutions

62.38; 62.39; 62.40

5. The FSM notes the importance of establishing a national human rights institution. The FSM will continue to work on strengthening existing mechanisms within the national government, including the Gender Development Officer's Desk within the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs.

Thematic area: Human rights education and awareness/health

62.41; 62.83; 62.84; 62.85; 62.86; 62.87; 62.88; 62.89; 62.90

6. The FSM fully supports the ongoing need for general human rights awareness in the FSM. The National Government will continue to work internally with its relevant departments, development partners, and non-governmental organizations in implementing these recommendations.

Thematic area: Trafficking in persons

62.75; 62.76

7. The FSM fully supports these recommendations and continues to strengthen the implementation of the trafficking in persons laws in the states and at the national level. The FSM continues to make significant progress in carrying out awareness activities for trafficking in persons in all the four states. All four states recognize January 22 as National Anti-Human Trafficking Day.

8. Since the enactment of the anti-trafficking laws in 2012 which define crimes relating to trafficking in persons, the FSM national government successfully prosecuted one case. The FSM national government is currently consulting with the states for any reports and updates on new trafficking in persons cases. There are currently three cases pending before the FSM Supreme Court to be heard, and two cases are still under investigation by the FSM Department of Justice.

Thematic area: Socio-economic development

62.83; 62.84; 62.85

9. The FSM supports these recommendations and is committed to developing socio-economic strategies and plans that take human rights concerns into consideration. The FSM will continue its efforts to develop and implement ongoing activities and programs in accordance with national conditions, reduce poverty, and empower women.

10. In September 2015, the FSM joined the international community in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is envisioned to be transformative and leave no one behind. The National Strategic Development Plan (SDP) continues to guide the FSM's social and economic development efforts. The FSM continues to work on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and updating, mainstreaming, and harmonizing the SDP. The FSM is working on updating the FSM Youth Policy and Disability Policy.

Thematic area: Human rights special procedures

62.43; 62.44

11. The FSM notes these recommendations. There is still an ongoing national discussion for the FSM to issue a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. The FSM realizes that the rights to health, environmental health, and food safety are crucial for the future livelihoods of the people of the FSM.

Thematic area: Gender and inequality

62.45; 62.46; 62.47; 62.48; 62.49; 62.78; 62.79; 62.80

12. The FSM supports the need to strengthen gender equality in the FSM. The FSM seeks technical assistance to better enhance and implement programs developed by the national government to address matters of gender and inequality in the FSM.

13. The FSM notes the importance of gender and inequality and is working towards completing its National Gender Policy. The FSM also notes the importance of addressing a number of controversial matters – such as gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual rights, and reproductive rights – in our laws in order to be fully compliant with human rights standards.

Thematic area: Child protection

62.73; 62.74; 62.81; 62.82

14. The FSM supports the recommendations to implement and respect children's rights and improve the human rights situation of children in the FSM.

15. It should be noted that the FSM's second country report for the Convention on the Rights of the Child is in the drafting phase. The report will be submitted to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child once internal consultations are completed and the report is endorsed by the national government.

Thematic area: Environment and climate change

62.91; 62; 92; 62.93

16. The FSM supports these recommendations while remaining mindful of its capacity to implement the recommendations. The FSM Nationwide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy (adopted in June 2013) complements the FSM's Strategic Development Plan (2004–2023) that was developed in recognition of the need to safeguard the FSM's people, resources, and economy, now and in the future, against the risks posed by climate change. The Policy was created in the hope that it will be a guiding tool for meetings discussing regional and international treaty obligations that the FSM has accepted, such as those pursuant to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

Thematic area: VAW

62.16; 62.17; 62.18; 62.19; 62.50; 62.51; 62.52; 62.53; 62.54; 62.55; 62.56; 62.57; 62.58; 62.59; 62.60; 62.61; 62.62; 62.63; 62.64; 62.65; 62.66; 62.67; 62.68; 62.69; 62.70; 62.71; 62.72

17. The FSM notes these recommendations and continues to implement measures in its ongoing efforts to eliminate discrimination and all forms of violence against women, as identified in the FSM Family Health and Safety Study conducted in October 2014. The national government continues to seek assistance from its development partners to conduct a comprehensive study regarding the implementation of policies, action plans, and interventions to address issues of violence against women in the FSM in order to be in compliance with our human rights obligations.

18. The FSM is committed towards removing the reservations to the CEDAW as recommended, while mindful of its capacity and other constraints to enact implementing legislation both at the national and state government levels. All states in the FSM except for Kosrae are in the drafting stage of developing their Family Protection Acts.

Thematic area: International cooperation

61.1; 61.2

19. The FSM supports these recommendations, and the national government will continue to engage with the United Nations and its development partners to promote and enhance human rights obligations in the FSM.